

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

27 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: WWG Members
FROM : NIO/W
SUBJECT : Minutes of Meeting

Attached are minutes of the Warning
Working Group Meeting held on 26 May 1983.

/s/ David Y. McManis

David Y. McManis

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MINUTES OF THE WARNING WORKING GROUP MEETING
26 May 1983

1. The NIO/Warning reiterated the purpose of the Warning Working Group (WWG) for the benefit of the new members. He particularly welcomes the participation of the Senior Intelligence Service Chiefs. Rather than being a working group, the body is looked upon as being an advisory steering group to help the NIO/W identify and work warning matters of mutual interest. [redacted] CIA/OGI, briefed on instability indicators and CIA initiatives in that area. The briefing was very well received but a clear need was expressed that the OGI reporting be consistent with the views expressed in the National Intelligence Estimates. To that end the NIO/W will arrange for the NIC to be briefed on the project in the near future and NIO comments will be solicited.

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Warning Vehicles

2. NIO/W elaborated further on the discussions which is taking place concerning a new warning vehicle to replace the Alert Memorandum. There was a general consensus that a vehicle is required to fill the gap between current assessments and national estimates. It should be:

a. Clearly defined in purpose and be designed for longer term warning of events having clear implications of harm to U.S. security interests.

b. No more than one page.

c. Coordinated wherever possible (this latter point was not considered critical as long as the report was a DCI warning and as long as the community gets a chance to be heard).

d. Drafted by the NIO's.

NIO/W will prepare a proposal for review by the WWG before making a formal recommendation to the DCI.

Warning Cadres

3. NIO/W attempted to eliminate the confusion over a proposal for the identification of "warning cadres" within various agencies and departments. The intent was not to build a new personnel mechanism or structure but rather to try to identify "networks" of individuals who should be communicating informally. No objections were raised once the subject was clarified.

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Staffing of the National Warning Staff

4. In response to a question, NIO/W explained that the staff at NWS is extremely small, will probably remain so, and therefore must insofar as possible serve as a coordinator rather than a doer. There will be opportunities for "fellows" to be assigned to work on specific projects and the support of the WWG will be required.

The National Warning Training Working Group

5. NIO/W explained the purpose of the group, which is currently working on the third iteration of the warning syllabus. Consideration is now being given within CIA, DIA and NSA on how to integrate the syllabus into the curriculums of the schools. The INR representative would like the NIO/W to meet with the Director of the Foreign Service Institute to see how the warning syllabus can be integrated into training programs for foreign service officers.

Warning Primers

6. The proposal for a warning primer for the most senior levels of government was met with great resistance by the WWG, who believed that while the level of understanding might be necessary it is normally provided by the Executive Officers or other functionaries. It was agreed that such a description of the national warning system would be useful, but at the mid decision and policy making levels. A request for individuals to help with the project was not responded to although copies of the product were requested by all.

7. NIO/W and NWS feel strongly that such a document is required although there may not be a full understanding of who the potential audience will be. As time allows, the NWS will draft a straw man which can be circulated to WWG principals for comment and input.

Status Report on Warning NIE's

8. A brief review of the status of several warning or warning-related NIE's was provided. Lessons learned in the process of writing the NIE on Warning of War in Korea were reviewed. Based on that experience, the NIO/W encouraged the need for WWG principals to maintain an active interest in these products as they develop.

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9. The group was updated on other NIO/W initiatives:

a. The Washington Area Operations-
Intelligence Centers Conference;

b. The trip of NIO/W and DIA/JS to Europe;
and finally,

c. The continued development of the White
House Crisis Management Facility and the role of
the NIO/W in support thereto.

10. Attendees are listed on Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENT 1

S E C R E T

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ATTENDEES

Mr. David Y. McManis, NIO/W - Chairman

[redacted] DIA/JS 25X1

Mr. Dean Howells, State/INR

M/G John Marks, ACS/I, USAF

[redacted] NSA/P3 for [redacted] NSA/Q4 25X1

[redacted] USAF 25X1

[redacted] CIA/CPAS 25X1

Lt. Col. Vallo Truumees, U.S. Army for M/G William Odom

[redacted] DIA/JSW 25X1

[redacted] National Warning Staff 25X1

[redacted] A/NIO/W 25X1

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